

PIVOTAL CIRCUMSTANCES

JOHN 11

“God brings trials into our lives to test and expand our faith. He is more interested in the growth of our faith than he is in our comfort.”

3 Insights:

- 1) There is a big difference between, “God is doing something to me”, and “God is doing something in me.”
- 2) Phillip Yancey said, “There is only one thing worse than disappointment with God, it is disappointment without God.”
- 3) The difference maker into whether we lean into God in a tough circumstance or run from Him is the people we have in our life.

OPENING QUESTION: How do you respond to this statement, “God brings trials into our lives to test and expand our faith? He is more interested in the growth of our faith than in our comfort?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Read John chapter 11. What do you see about pivotal circumstances in this passage?
- 2) How do you feel knowing that Jesus didn't go to Lazarus in his time of need? John 11:1-6
- 3) In John 11:4 Jesus introduces the idea that God uses human pain for His glory. How does that sit with you?
- 4) In John 11:14 Jesus says that He is working “for our sake”. Are you able to see that in your life, even in tough situations?
- 5) Respond to this statement. “When it feels like God is allowing something to happen to us, it is easy to lose faith. But when we accept that his is doing something in us, we are candidates for the grace we need in order to endure.”
- 6) Respond to this statement, “there is only one thing worse than disappointment with God, it is disappointment without God.”
- 7) What can you learn from Jesus about pivotal circumstances?